

AIR

EOB-A-5634

Chief, EE

JUN 17 1953

Chief, Berlin Operations Base

INFO: COM, BONN, PULL, CADRAIN

CALL/CADORY/Operational

SPD Attitude

1. CARLST's views concerning the possibility that the Soviets, as a preparatory move toward unification, may resolve to resuscitate the SPD with Grotewohl as party chairman, were brought to your attention in EGBA-5632. In the light of information contained in BONN-0841 it can be surmised that CARLST obviously reflected the thinking of the SPD leadership in expressing some concern at the prospect of a situation of fact which it may be difficult to undo.

2. I discussed the above mentioned contingency today with Dr. Ulrich BLUM, who differed with our estimate to the extent that he considers more likely a move to unscramble the SPD into its component parts - SPD and KPD - followed by the Soviet sponsored foundation of a new labor party on the pattern of the old Unabhängige Arbeiterpartei (i.e. right of KPD, left of SPD). This would have the patent advantage of forestalling any attempt on the part of the legitimate SPD leadership at ousting Grotewohl and his associates on the score of usurped powers. It would furthermore serve to introduce a split into the labor movement of the DDR designed to capitalize on the traditional radicalism of the Saxonian and Thuringian proletariat. Such a splinter party could be afforded Soviet protection in the name of democratic freedom and it would be difficult to suppress it as long as it purports to adhere to the constitution. An interesting parallel would be MENNI's socialist movement in Italy which, as it looks from here, has been successful in coralling the "heistatlese" and anti-American left. It does not strike me as too farfetched to visualize Grotewohl playing MENNI's role in the DDR.

16 June 1953

Approved by:

glprbjt
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DATE 2007

62-7 202